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b) a primary disk in communication with said roller for creasing and folding said material by gravity as said material travels from said roller to said disk, wherein said primary roller and said primary disk are both free-spinning.

REMARKS

Applicant submits the amended claims which the Examiner contended was raising new issues after Final Rejection. Also, Applicant submits the amendment further distinguishes the invention over the cited art. In US 3,202,066 (Palmer), the disclosure is directed to an apparatus and method for folding synthetic plastic sheet stock. Plastic sheet stock is a relatively stiff material which rigidly maintains its fold after the fold is formed (see Palmer, Fig. 1). By contrast, the Applicant's invention is directed to folding of "material 30.....naturally as material 30 flows over disk 20 under the action of gravity". (Specification, page 8, lines 16-18). (See, also Fig. 1 of Specification.) The disclosure of Palmer neither discloses nor suggests a device that folds as claimed by Applicant. Clearly, Applicant's invention solves a problem in a manner not disclosed or suggested by Palmer; indeed gravity would work against the formation of a fold in Palmer. Particularly if the material is "drapeable" or "conformable" material as discussed, for example, on page 16, lines 17 to 27 of the Specification.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and notice of allowance are solicited. If any questions arise which can be disposed through interview, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required for this submission to Johnson & Johnson Deposit Account No. 10-0750/JJM-550/TJS.

Docket No: JJM-550
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Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A folding device comprising:
 - a) a primary roller for receiving a material to be folded;
 - b) a primary disk in communication with said roller for creasing and folding said material ¹¹²by gravity as said material travels from said roller to said disk, wherein said primary roller and said primary disk are both free-spinning.